

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 AID-05 OIC-02 COME-00 TRSE-00

STR-04 /030 W

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R 171722Z FEB 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8172

UNCLAS GENEVA 1114

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, EEWT

SUBJECT: ECE - COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE

REF: STATE 26481

1. PREPARATORY MEETING FOR SECOND INFORMAL MEETING OF TRADE EXPERTS (MAY 26-28, 1976) HELD FEB 5-6 WITH 22 COUNTRIES AND EEC REPRESENTED.

2. DELEGATES AGREED THAT FOLLOWING PRECEDENT OF FIRST INFORMAL MEETING, APPROACH WOULD BE FLEXIBLE AND PRAGMATIC. NO AGENDA WILL BE DRAWN UP AND OBJECTIVE WILL BE FACT-FINDING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AMONG TRADE EXPERTS. REPORT OF MEETING WILL BE PREPARED BY EXECUTIVE SECRETARY ON HIS OWN RESPONSIBILITY.

3. DELEGATES INITIALLY AGREED ON EIGHT THEMES, INCLUDING TOPICS A AND B SUGGESTED REFTEL, AS FRAMEWORK FOR GROUPING DISCUSSION TOPICS AND QUESTIONS TO BE PROPOSED BY GOVERNMENTS. AGREEMENT FELL APART, HOWEVER, DUE TO FEELING BY SOME DELEGATIONS THAT TOPICS NOT OF BALANCED INTEREST TO EAST AND WEST. AT BEGINNING OF SECOND DAY OF SESSION, HUNGARIAN DEL PROPOSED TWO THEMES: (1) STABILITY AND STEADY GROWTH IN EAST-WEST TRADE AND (2) THE INFLUENCE OF PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF EAST-WEST TRADE. EEC REP FOUND THIS TILTED IN FAVOR OF EASTERN INTEREST AND PROPOSED THIRD TOPIC: CHANGES IN THE ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE IN

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THE ECE REGION SINCE THE FIRST MEETING. HUNGARIAN FOUND

THIS TILTED MATTER OTHER WAY. PROLONGED DEBATE DEVELOPED WITH EASTERN DELS FAVORING TOPICS 1 AND 2, EEC MEMBERS AND ROMANIA FAVORING 1 AND 3, AND SCANDINAVIANS WILLING TO ACCEPT ALL THREE. CANDAIAANS EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF QUESTIONS RATHER THAN THEMES.

4. UNABLE TO BALANCE SCALES, DELEGATES DECIDED TO REVERT TO GENERAL THEME FOR INFORMAL MEETING DECIDED ON AT 24TH SESSION OF COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE, NAMELY "NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN EAST-WEST TRADE: PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS IN THE LIGHT OF THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE." FIRST TWO DAYS OF SESSION WILL BE DEVOTED TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED FORMALLY IN ADVANCE, WITH THIRD DAY DEVOTED TO FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION. DELEGATES ACCEPTED UK ASSERTION THAT IN SPIRIT OF CSCE REAL EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND TO EXPLAIN THINKING BEHIND TRADE POLICIES AND PRACTICES. SECRETARIAT WILL GROUP RELATED QUESTIONS, WHICH HOPEFULLY WILL BE KEPT IN BALANCE BY A CEILING OF 30 TO 40 FROM EACH SIDE. QUESTIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO SECRETARIAT BY APRIL 15. BRUNGART

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, TRADE, EAST WEST TRADE, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA01114
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760059-0352
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760244/aaaabmjy.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 26481
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by oatisao>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE - COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE
TAGS: EEWT, ECE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006